



MID YEAR LUNCH AND MEETING

**THIS WILL BE HELD FROM 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2015
IN THE TAWA BOWLING CLUB, DAVIES STREET, TAWA.**

PLEASE BRING A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE LUNCH

It would be appreciated if these could be savoury rather than sweet and are suitable for eating with the fingers. On arrival your food will be transferred to platters and can be heated at the hall if required. Members with food intolerances or restricted diets are welcome to bring their own lunches.

Entertainment will be provided by our very own Tawahine Voices.

From the Management Committee

Situations Vacant:

We have been advised that Helen O'Callaghan (Secretary), Bill Chaplin (Printing and Publishing) and Peter Downes (Newsletter Editor) will be stepping down at the next AGM. We are looking for replacements. There are only four meetings a year. U3A depends on people volunteering to fill these positions. Please give this some serious consideration.

The Courses Sub-committee is pleased to welcome Don Hunter. We could do with more people, especially women, on this Sub-committee.

A reminder here that this year's Tutor/Coordinators' Morning Tea will be held in the St Stephen's Lounge on Monday 30 November.

Friendly reminders:

When you attend a session at a hired venue, please remember that there is a \$2.00 charge to cover the hall/room hireage.

If you have signed up for a course, please let the coordinator know if you are unable to attend.

Have you paid your annual registration fee? Our coffers are running a bit low! You can use the drop-box at the Tawa Community Centre but please ensure that your \$10.00 notes are attached to your registration form – otherwise we have no idea who the money is from.

Next year members with a Cell (Mobile) phone will be asked to provide their number so that coordinators can send text messages as a reminder about forthcoming talks. Emails will be used for those who have this facility. For members with neither of these, messages will continue as in the past.

Registration form and course enrollments will take on another new look – hopefully to make it easier for you to keep track of what you have signed for.

Don't forget to use our wonderful website. This contains the Newsletter as well as photos and full information about courses. Address: www.u3a.gargal.net/

Coordinators, please remember to use the Sign-out sheet in the storeroom when taking out equipment.



The 2015 Management Committee

L to R: Back: John Baldwin, David Russell, John Burke, Bill Chaplin, Digby Gudsell
Front: Brian Wilson, Michael Holland, Jancis Potter, Helen O'Callaghan, Nicky Lambie

From the Publicity Officer

You may have noticed that I've been submitting items to Malcolm Sparrow's *Tawa News* and on the new website "Neighbourly" as well as to *Kapi-Mana News*. I've been writing reports on some of the talks, courses etc that I have attended. However, I only attend a small selection of what we offer and I think more of our courses deserve publicity. Could someone in your group please write a report and take photos and send them to me – I may put them on "Neighbourly" or use them for *Tawa News* or *The Kapi-Mana*. And of course we will use some in the U3A newsletter for our existing members. Contact Jancis Potter, phone 232 3915.

U3A On-Line – Courses with a Leader

As well as offering courses for independent study with this Australian based U3A organisation (details of which are included in the new Course Booklet for the second half of the year), there are also courses which you can study under the guidance of a leader. Our U3A Tawa would buy the subject license which would mean we were provided with access to the materials for that course.

If you would be interested in any of the courses offered in this way, and you would be prepared to lead the group, please let our Courses Subcommittee know: John Baldwin, phone 237 6501.

Check out the website to see what courses are offered: u3aonline.org.au

Some highlights from March and April events

Winter Breakaways

U3A has featured several travel talks over the years – always a popular topic as many retirees now have the time (not necessarily the money) to explore the world. Thursday April 16th we had a presentation from United Travel's Cherie Le Prou and her assistant, Jodi, who had enlisted speakers from Air NZ (Frank Gibbons) and Go Holidays (Nikki). Frank gave a number of worthwhile travel tips including how to best avoid jetlag and then outlined the seating choices. At the end of his presentation he came round with the inevitable basket of lollies (prepare for landing, folks!) Nikki followed with a presentation showing the various Pacific Island destinations with choices of accommodation and the best tours offered. Everyone left with a "goody bag" including travel brochures, a \$50.00 gift voucher and a chocolate bar. We were certainly spoilt! They'll most certainly be welcomed back again in the second half of the year to tell us about Earlybird cruise specials.

English Literature

The celebration of heroes in "English Literature" was continued on March 26th by Carolyn Marshall. This time she reflected on "Unsung heroes" and read poems by Frances Doyle who, she pointed out, the Oxford Companion to English Literature describes "sniffily" as one of the popular patriotic poets, and a number of not so well known poems by Rudyard Kipling. Then the more familiar *Gunga Din* and *A Smuggler's Song*. Everyone leaves with a smile on their face however well their brains have been stimulated.

How to Read a Church

On March 24th Michael Holland began a fortnightly series of illustrated talks on "How to Read a Church" explaining the history and significance of the art (icons) and architecture of churches. The first centred on the early Byzantine and Greek Orthodox churches, the way icons are "written" not painted (because they are interpreted as text – so long as you can understand them!). We learnt about the symbolism of the colours used; the way that church layout is based on the shape of the Greek Orthodox cross (with arms of equal length); the rounded arches are called Romanesque; that two fingers are used as a symbol for blessing (not the peace sign or the other one - somewhat more vulgar!); that the Christ is shown with a cruciform aureole (a halo with a cross inscribed in it) where other holy figures have an area of light or simple halo.



Michael Holland has the attention of his audience at one of his "Read the Church" talks

Met Opera Film: *The Mastersingers of Nuremburg* (Wagner)

A very small contingent met at the Penthouse cinema to enjoy the six hours of opera that comes from New York's Metropolitan Opera. These operas are filmed live from the famous opera house and allow folks all over the world to enjoy, as if in the best seats in the house, some of the finest singers, musical directors and sets in the world. Wagner's great masterpiece is a great favourite of mine – I used the overture (adapted) for our

school orchestra for a prize giving ceremony at Wairarapa College some years ago. This production didn't disappoint. There was the grandeur of the music but, surprisingly, a wonderful touch of comedy too. And the six hours was NOT an endurance test. It was broken into three Acts with two twenty minute intervals in which to visit the loo and get a coffee and a snack.

John Baldwin in conversation with Jancis Potter

I have associated with John a lot in recent months as we've worked our way through U3A Courses, but never realised what a fascinating "back story" he had! Overseas postings, surveyor, lecturer, pilot, avid DIY-er, and baker. Not to mention all his IT expertise.

He's an eighth generation Kiwi. "On my mother's side," he tells me, "I am a direct descendant of Captain Hansen who brought Samuel Marsden here in 1814 - and stayed." Born and educated in Auckland, "I was a foundation student of Pakuranga College and Bucklands Beach and Langholm primaries - the benefits of being an early baby boomer."

He started work as a draughtsman in the Ministry of Works then for Consulting Engineers. Two years in Bougainville gave him surveying experience as well as money needed for further study fees. After completing his degree at Otago University he worked in Rotorua until 1978 and then began lecturing. He says, "I had 28 years lecturing, the last 20 as senior lecturer. This included field camps, surveying, valuation, civil engineering, land law, civics, land development and supervising research." He had periods of study leave in Adelaide, Toronto and Oregon State which resulted in a Master's thesis in 1997 on "The Queen's Chain" which is still being referred to. He admits that "ten years ago I was an authority on small-scale waste-water treatment systems. I've written a few dozen academic papers - nothing really high-brow."

John has been involved in community activities that have been mostly connected with his profession: on the committee of the Institute of Surveyors, organising conferences and running seminars throughout the country on a variety of land/surveying matters. He also edited *Survey Quarterly* and *NZ Surveyor* for about a decade and was created a Fellow of the NZ Institute of Surveyors in 2007.

He married Angela in 1970 after "arranging a wedding on a once a week radio telephone call between Thursday Island and Bougainville." They have three children and (almost) three grandchildren. One family lives in Baku, Azerbaijan, giving John and Angela a very good excuse for overseas travel to that part of the world. (They will present a talk on their last year's trip in the coming U3A programme).

A keen sportsman in his school days when he captained the 1st XI cricket team and the 1st XV soccer team, he devoted his energy to "looking for real work" after that but coached junior soccer and indulged in a passion for flying while in Christchurch, achieving his private licence.

Nowadays, he spends any free time, he tells me, "building decks, fences, retaining walls - landscaping our new Aotea house. Also I try to keep up-to-date with computers without kids at home to provide quick solutions. I now have the kitchen to myself for two months while Angela visits Baku again so I'll be free to indulge in the joy of cooking & bread baking."

I somehow doubt that John has much free time as he has given a great deal of time to U3A activities. He was drawn to Tawa originally to be close to Angela's sister, U3A Secretary, Helen O'Callaghan. Since joining U3A, however, he has run a course on "Computer Chatter" and now "Computers - How to". He encouraged the setting up of the U3A website, did stints as Equipment Custodian, as Venues Coordinator and finally took over as Courses Coordinator.

John smiles, "So that's about me/us. I just toddle along trying not to be left too far behind the kids!!"

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Disclaimer: This newsletter is created for the interest of the Tawa U3A Inc members only. The writer and the executive make every effort to ensure the information in this publication is correct but cannot take any responsibility for errors that may occur.